

Message Text

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11

ACTION NEA-10

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R 031315Z JUL 75

FM AMEMBASSY TUNIS

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 9544

INFO AMEMBASSY ABIDJAN

AMEMBASSY ACCRA

AMEMBASSY ADDIS ABABA

AMEMBASSY ALGIERS

AMEMBASSY BAMAKO

AMEMBASSY BANGUI

AMEMBASSY BANJUL

AMEMBASSY BLANTYRE

AMEMBASSY BUJUMBURA

AMEMBASSY CAIRO

AMEMBASSY CONAKRY

AMEMBASSY COTONOU

AMEMBASSY DAKAR

AMEMBASSY DAR ES SALAAM

AMEMBASSY FREETOWN

AMEMBASSY GABERONE

AMEMBASSY KHARTOUM

AMEMBASSY KIGALI

AMEMBASSY KINSHASA

AMEMBASSY LAGOS

AMEMBASSY LIBREVILLE

AMEMBASSY LUSAKA

AMEMBASSY MASERU

AMEMBASSY MOGADISCIO

AMEMBASSY MONROVIA

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AMEMBASSY NAIROBI

AMEMBASSY NIAMEY

AMEMBASSY NOUAKCHOTT

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AMEMBASSY OUAGADOUGOU

AMEMBASSY PRETORIA
AMEMBASSY RABAT
AMEMBASSY TANANARIVE
AMEMBASSY BEIRUT
AMEMBASSY PARIS
AMEMBASSY TRIPOLI
AMCONSUL LORENCO MARQUES

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E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: PFOR XA TS
SUBJ: CONFERENCE OF AFRICAN POLITICAL PARTIES
OPENS IN TUNIS

1. SUMMARY: ON JULY 1, DELEGATIONS REPRESENTING 31 AFRICAN POLITICAL PARTIES AND LIBERATION MOVEMENTS PARTICIPATED IN THE OPENING OF A SIX-DAY CONGRESS TO DISCUSS "PLANNED DEVELOPMENT AND AFRICAN PATHS TO SOCIALISM." HELD UNDER THE AUSPICES OF PRESIDENT BOURGUIBA AND OF PRESIDENT SENGHOR OF SENEGAL, THE CONFERENCE WILL LAST UNTIL JULY 6, AFFORDING PARTICIPANTS AN OPPORTUNITY TO COMPARE THEIR DIFFERENT EXPERIENCES IN FACING THE PROBLEMS OF DEVELOPMENT. THE TUNISIAN HOSTS SEEM TO BE TRYING TO STEER THE MEETING AWAY FROM ANY STANCE OF CLEAR CONFRONTATION WITH INDUSTRIALIZED STATES. ABSENCE OF SOME AFRICAN EXTREMISTS MAKES POSSIBLE THE HOPE THAT CONFERENCE RESOLUTIONS WILL BE MORE BALANCED THAN USUAL THIRD-WORLD PRONOUNCEMENTS. END SUMMARY.

2. ON JULY 1, THE CONFERENCE OF AFRICAN POLITICAL PARTIES OPENED IN TUNIS WITH PRESIDENTS BOURGUIBA AND SENGHOR PRESIDING. DEDICATED TO THE THEME OF PLANNED DEVELOPMENT AND AFRICAN PATHS TO SOCIALISM, THE MEETING IS BEING ATTENDED BY REPRESENTATIVES FROM 31 AFRICAN POLITICAL PARTIES AND SOUTHERN AFRICAN LIBERATION MOVEMENTS, PLUS THE PALESTINE LIBERATION ORGANIZATION, THE PAN-AFRICAN YOUTH MOVEMENT, THE UNION
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OF AFRICAN JOURNALISTS, THE UNION OF AFRICAN TRADE UNIONS, AND THE ORGANIZATION OF AFRICAN UNITY ATTENDING AS OBSERVERS. IT WILL RUN THROUGH JULY 6.

3. AT THE OPENING SESSION, DIRECTOR OF TUNISIA'S DESTOURIAN SOCIALIST PARTY (PSD) MOHAMED SAYAH, WELCOMED THE DELEGATES AND TOLD THEM THAT THE FIRST OBJECTIVE OF THE CONFERENCE IS TO SERVE AS A FORUM FOR COMPARISON

OF DIFFERENT EXPERIENCES OF AFRICAN COUNTRIES. HE SAID THIS EXCHANGE WILL PERMIT THE DEVELOPMENT OF A STRATEGY TO AID THE CONTINENT IN FACING WORLDWIDE ECONOMIC FLUCTUATIONS. SAYAH'S SPEECH WAS FOLLOWED BY THE WELCOMING SPEECH OF PRESIDENT BOURGUIBA. HE SPOKE ON THE OBJECTIVES OF AFRICAN SOCIALISM WHICH HE SAID SHOULD REST ON HARMONY, SOLIDARITY, AND FREE COOPERATION OF ALL SOCIAL CATEGORIES. PRESIDENT SENGHOR THEN SPOKE FOR OVER AN HOUR ON THE SUBJECT OF AFRICAN SOCIALISM, TELLING THE DELEGATES THAT MARX AND ENGELS OUGHT TO BE RE-READ FROM THE AFRICAN POINT OF VIEW AND THAT THEIR THEORIES OUGHT TO BE APPLIED ACCORDING TO TODAY'S REALITIES. HIS SPEECH WAS A LONG AND DRY ONE AND SOME DELEGATES SLEPT.

4. THE REMAINDER OF THE CONFERENCE'S FIRST DAY WAS TAKEN UP BY REPORTS FROM THE CAMEROON, MAURITANIA, AND GAMBIA DELEGATIONS ON THEIR EXPERIENCES IN DEVELOPMENT. THE SECOND DAY SAW TUNISIAN PRIMIN NOUIRA (SECY GENERAL OF DESTOURIAN SOCIALIST PARTY (PSD) DELIVER A LONG SPEECH ON THE PRAGMATIC NATURE OF TUNISIAN SOCIALISM. NOUIRA WAS FOLLOWED BY REPS OF ALGERIA, SUDAN, IVORY COAST, AND A PALESTINE LIBERATION ORGANIZATION SPOKESMAN. EVEN THE ALGERIAN-FLN OFFICIAL CHERIF MESSAADIA-- SEEMS TO HAVE AVOIDED EXTREMIST RHETORIC. THE PALESTINIANS HAD LITTLE TO SAY ON DEVELOPMENT BUT SOME WELL RECEIVED REMARKS ON THE COMPLICITY OF ISRAEL WITH "THE RACIST REGIMES IN RHODESIA AND SOUTH AFRICA."

5. JULY 4 SHOULD BE FINAL DAY FOR INDIVIDUAL DELEGATION PRESENTATIONS, FOLLOWED BY TWO DAYS IN WHICH WORKING COMMITTEES SHOULD PREPARE AND PRESENT CONFERENCE LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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RESOLUTIONS.

6. COMMENT: THE HOST PSD HAS DECLINED, PLEADING LACK OF ROOM, TO ADMIT DIPLOMATIC OBSERVERS TO THE SESSIONS OTHER THAN THE CEREMONIAL OPENING, AND LOCAL PRESS CARRIES ONLY PRECIS OF MOST SPEAKERS' REMARKS. HOWEVER, SO FAR, THIS THIRD-WORLD CONFERENCE SHAPES UP AS UNUSUALLY MODERATE IN TONE. SOME OF AFRICA'S WILDER TYPES ARE NOT HERE--EITHER THEY DECLINED TO SEND DELEGATIONS, OR WERE NOT ELIGIBLE BY REASON OF HAVING NO POLITICAL PARTY AS SUCH--AND THE TONE OF MOST SPEAKERS SO FAR HAS BEEN THAT AFRICAN STATES HAVE THEIR OWN DIVERSE WAYS OF ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT AND ARE NOT DEPENDENT ON PARTICULAR IDEOLOGIES. IT REMAINS TO BE SEEN WHAT WORKING COMMITTEES WILL PRO-

DUCE. THERE WILL PROBABLY BE MENTION OF SUCH "NEW
WORLD ECONOMIC ORDER" ITEMS AS RELATION RAW MATERIAL
PRICES TO THOSE OF MANUFACTURED PRODUCTS, AND POLITICAL
POINTS WILL PROBABLY BE MADE RE DECOLONIZATION IN
AFRICA AND RESTORATION OF PALESTINIAN RIGHTS. AT THIS
STAGE, HOWEVER, CONFERENCE SEEMS HEADED TOWARD AVOIDING
HARSH ATTACKS ON INDUSTRIALIZED NATIONS FOR ALLEGEDLY
KEEPING AFRICA UNDER-DEVELOPED. FROM TUNISIAN STAND-
POINT, CONFERENCE IS EXCELLENT FORUM TO CLARIFY
TUNISIA'S SOMETIMES FUZZY AFRICAN AND PROGRESSIVE
CREDENTIALS, AND INDEED, TO ASSERT ITS LEADERSHIP
IN THIS IMPORTANT PART OF THE DEVELOPING WORLD.
FROM USG STANDPOINT, MODERATE CONDERENCE RESOLUTIONS
COULD CONCEIVABLY CONTRIBUTE TO EASING USG PROBLEMS
AT SEVENTH SPECIAL SESSION AS, FOR EXAMPLE, BY SHOWING
OTHERWISE TAGALONG AFRICAN STATES THAT THIRD WOELD
INDEED CONTAINS SUBSTANTIAL GROUP OF COUNTRIES WHO
NEED NOT BLINDLY FOLLOW EXTREMIST LEADS. WE WOULD
NOT BET ON THIS, HOWEVER.
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